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REMARKS

This paper is responsive to the Non-Final Office Action dated September 27, 2004. Claims 1, 3-13, 15, 18, 20 – 23, 26 – 29, 34, and 36 – 42 are pending in the application. Claims 24 – 25, 30 – 33, and 35 have been cancelled without prejudice, and Applicant reserves the right to pursue similar claims at a later time. New claims 38 – 42 have been added. Non-narrowing amendments have been made to claims 5 and 13 to improve readability. The Examiner has indicated that claim 6 includes allowable subject matter, and would be allowable if rewritten to include the limitations of its base claim. Applicant appreciates the indication of allowability.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1, 3-13, 15, 18, 20 – 23, 26 – 29, 34, and 36 – 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,172,611 anticipated by Hussain et al (hereinafter “Hussain”). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Accessibility of programmable storage locations

There is no teaching or disclosure in *Hussain* for an instruction that provides accessibility to a programmable storage location. Claim 1 recites the following limitation: “a programmable storage location storing a first temperature limit value, the programmable storage location accessible via an instruction executed by the integrated circuit.” The Office Action cites sections of *Hussain* that disclose “software selectable thresholds” and “a software controlled alarm system,” however there never is disclosure of an instruction or software that provides accessibility to a programmable storage location. Claim 27 recites the following limitation: “at least a first and second temperature limit value stored in programmable storage locations in the microprocessor, the storage locations being accessible via software executed by the microprocessor.” Applicant provides examples of making a programmable storage location accessible via an instruction or software at pages 7 – 8 of Applicant’s specification, such as mapping the control registers to an I/O address space. *Hussain* does not disclose an instruction or software executed on a processor make a programmable storage location accessible or mapping thermal control registers to an I/O address space.

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Causal relationship between accessing a control location and deasserting a signal

Applicant's claims include limitations for deasserting a signal in response to accessing a control location, as well as in response to a measured temperature passing a temperature limit. The Office Action cites to sections of *Hussain* that disclose asserting signals in response to a measured temperature cresting or exceeding a temperature threshold, but *Hussain* is void of any disclosure or suggestion for accessing a control location, much less actions in response to accessing the control location. *Hussain* also discloses a setpoint that "provides a lower limit temperature below which all countermeasures are discontinued to save power by shutting down fans or increase performance by increasing processing speeds" (col. 10, line 61 – col. 11, line 1). However, nothing in *Hussain* discloses "wherein the signal on the first output terminal is deasserted according to a programmable mode of operation that includes deasserting in response to at least one of a control location on the integrated circuit being accessed and the measured temperature falling below a lower limit value" as recited in claim 13, and similarly in claims 4, 5, 20, 23, and 29. Merely disclosing asserting a signal or deasserting a signal in response to a temperature exceeding a temperature threshold, does not disclose or suggest deasserting a signal in response to accessing a control location.

Microprocessor

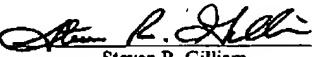
The Office Action glosses over the limitation of a microprocessor in Applicant's claims. Claims 12 and 27 specifically refer to a microprocessor. The Office Action refers to the Field of the Invention section of *Hussain*, which merely states that the alleged invention of *Hussain* relates to temperature monitoring techniques used in microprocessors. Thereafter, *Hussain* discloses a thermal management integrated circuit, which is separate from a microprocessor. *Hussain* never discloses or suggests a technique for thermal management implemented within a microprocessor.

For at least the reasons above, all of the claims are allowable over the art of record. In addition, all of the dependent claims are at least allowable because they depend from allowable independent claims.

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Conclusion

In summary, claims 1, 3-13, 15, 18, 20 – 23, 26 – 29, 34, and 36 – 42 are in the case. All claims are believed to be allowable over the art of record, and a Notice of Allowance to that effect is respectfully solicited. Nonetheless, if any issues remain that could be more efficiently handled by telephone, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the number listed below.

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Steven R. Gilliam	Date
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Respectfully submitted,



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